



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
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ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference—Defense Science Board Task Force on
Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)

You are requested to initiate a Defense Science Board Task Force on improvised explosive devices (IED). The Task Force's focus should be to explore methods and techniques to significantly reduce the effects of IEDs (i.e., injuries, casualties, hampered or disrupted operations) on U.S. and coalition forces in operations such as are currently being conducted in OIF. In this operation, IEDs utilized by insurgent and terrorist groups present a most serious challenge to our ability to achieve and sustain our political and military objectives.

The Task Force should examine ways to counter the use as well as mitigate the consequences of IEDs. In so doing, the enemy's entire IED process should be considered. Areas to explore should not be limited to, but should include: recruiting, training and obtaining funding; through building, emplacing and detonating devices; to damage assessment and adaptation.

Since it is unlikely that any one U.S. intervention technique will nullify the effect of, or totally eliminate the use of IEDs, the Task Force needs to consider the entire spectrum of intervention objectives. These include deterrence, dissuasion, remote pre-detonation, remote disarming, elimination of sources and/or manufacturing facilities, discovery and removal of critical personnel, discovery and removal of employed devices, or anything else that has the end effect of either lowering the value or raising the cost of employing IEDs as an insurgent or terrorist weapon of choice.

The Task Force will have four primary objectives:

1. Assess the current state of the art of U.S. and potential coalition forces in countering adversary use of IEDs in operations such as OIF
2. Recommend a mid- to long-term set of integrated activities aimed at improving the state of the art in reducing the effect of IEDs over the next three to ten years. The activities should address the full spectrum of training, doctrine, new or revised operational concepts, materiel acquisition, development and/or technology investment - all brought together within the context of a total integrated system.

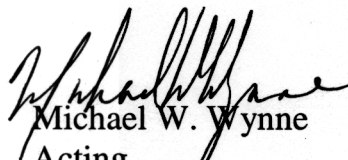


3. Because of the severity of the current threat and its ability to hamper ongoing U.S. operations and objectives, the Task Force will also provide recommendations on short-term (over the next 6 months to three years) incremental improvements in U.S. forces' ability to counter or reduce the effectiveness of IEDs. In order that the Department can, if desired, act upon these recommendations as soon as possible, the Task Force should report on any such recommendations on a periodic basis as required.
4. Identify any synergies that may exist between current counter-IED and countermine efforts. Highlight any areas in which the technology being pursued under one effort might significantly benefit the other.

The task force should work closely with the DSB Task Force on Force Protection in Urban and Unconventional Environments that is examining the broader force protection issue. The details will be worked out by the four co-chairs.

The study will be sponsored by me as the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), the Director, Defense Research and Engineering, and the Director, Defense Systems. Dr. Delores Etter and Mr. Robert Stein will serve as co-Chairmen of the Task Force. CAPT Michael Lilienthal will serve as the Executive Secretary and LTC Scott Dolgoff, USA will serve as the Defense Science Board Secretariat Representative.

The Task Force will be operated in accordance with the provisions of PL 92-462, the "Federal Advisory Committee Act" and DOD Directive 5104.5, "DoD Federal Advisory Committee Management Program." It is not anticipated that this Task Force will need to go into any "particular matters" within the meaning of section 208 of Title 18 U.S. Code nor will it cause any member to be placed in the position of acting as a procurement official.


Michael W. Wynne
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